

Docket No. NEC98P175-hi

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of

Akio Tanaka

Serial No.: 09/192,474

Filing Date: November 17, 1998

For: IMAGING DEVICE WITH FIXED-PATTERN-NOISE CORRECTION REGULATED
CONSTANT-CURRENT SOURCE

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450



Group Art Unit: 2878

Examiner: Eric J. Spears

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RESPONSE

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated May 21, 2003, please consider the following:

REMARKS

The undersigned thanks Examiner Spears for the telephone interview conducted on July 14, 2003, in which he indicated that the attached Declaration would be sufficient to overcome the Endo reference.

Claims 1-24 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 2-4, 7-10, 13-14, and 16-21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 22, 23, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Endo (JP 10-304251). Claims 5, 6, 11, 12, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Endo.

However, the Endo reference has an effective date of November 13, 1998, whereas the priority date of the present application is November 17, 1997 (e.g., its Japanese filing date). Therefore, Applicant concurrently files herewith an executed Declaration indicating that the present specification is a true and correct translation of the Priority Document, thereby to render moot the prior art rejections.

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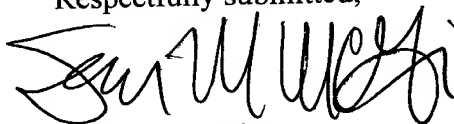
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-24, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully submitted,



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